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SUBJECT: PM JAFARI APPROVES AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS TO
THE US, UNITED NATIONS AND JORDAN

Classified By: Political Counselor Robert S. Ford
for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1.(C) On March 8, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Hamid al-Bayati confirmed
to PolOff that Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari approved
Iraq's ambassadorial assignments to the US, United
Nations and Jordan. As Iraq's Ambassador to the
United Nations, al-Bayati told PolOff that he is quite
relieved the five month delay is over. Al-Bayati will
leave for New York as soon as Ambassador Samir
Sumadaie transfers to Washington, DC and presents his
credentials. Deputy Foreign Minister of
Administration Saad al-Hayani has also been approved
to be Iraq's new Ambassador to Jordan.

12. (S) Biographic Information:

Hamid al-Bayati: Bayati is a prominent member of the
Shia Islamist SCIRI party and has been deputy minister
for two years. He speaks good English. He has
published books on terrorism. He has been very open
to meetings with American Embassy personnel; he is the
type of SCIRI contact that tries to show SCIRI is not
dependent on its Iranian benefactors. Zebari did not
always confide in Bayati, but when the minister wanted
to deliver a stern message to us, he would bring in
Bayati to witness (and doubtless report to SCIRI).

Hayani: the MFA equivalent of the Assistant Secretary
for Administration, Hayani is a career MFA bureaucrat;
within the MFA he is thought to know where the various
pots of money are located. He is a Sunni Arab who has
found many excuses for travel to neighboring Arab
states. He is generally friendly towards the Embassy,
but we did not find him well informed about what
Minister Zebari was doing.
KHALILZAD